

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /101 W

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O 111635Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0973

AMCONGEN ASMARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10822

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

REF: ADDIS 10760

1. EMBASSY ASSUMES DEPT. HAS THROUGH FBIS AND PRESS TICKERS VITRIOLIC ATTACK CARRIED BY RADIO ETHIOPIA AT 1400 HOURS LOCAL SEPT. 11 UPON EMPEROR AND HIGH-LIVING DO-NOTHING IMPERIAL FAMILY. ATTACK CENTERS ON MONARCH'S ALLGED REFUSAL, REPEAT REFUSAL, RE-PATRIATE "BILLIONS" SECRETED BY HIM IN FOREIGN BANKS. FILMS ON DROUGHT AND DISSOLUTE LIVES OF MEMBERS IMPERIAL FAMILY PROMISED FOR TONIGHT ON TV.

2. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO HAVE SEEN TEXT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE 1330 HOURS LOCAL RADIO ETHIOPIA NEWSCAST IN WHICH THE ABUN QUOTED IN SEPT. 10 PRESS CONFERENCE AS APPROVING MILITARY MOVEMENT AND INFERRING CHURCH ALIGNING ITSELF ON ETHIOPIA FIRST POSTURE. USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO PRESENT AT TEWOFILOS PRES CONFERENCE AND TAPED IT, STATES ABUN STOPPED WELL SHORT OF TENOR STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN ENGLISH -- BUT NOT REPEAT NOT IN AMHARIC -- NEWSCAST.

3. AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 HOURS LOCAL, MILITARY SEEN ENTERING IMPERIAL FAMILY COMPOUNDS ON EITHER SIDE OF EMBASSY. PRINCESSES
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TENAGNE WORQ AND SAWA SEEN THEREAFTER LEAVING COMPOUND SEPARATE-

LY WITH ESCORT FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION, LATTER PRINCESS REPORTEDLY EXHIBITING EVERY SIGN OF DEPARTURE UNDER DURESS. LOCAL EMPLOYEES REPORT UNSPECIFIED PRINCES ALSO REMOVED UNDER ESCORT. SOME SHOTS SAID HAVE BEEN FIRED IN AIR DURING THESE PROCEEDINGS, APPARENTLY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT.

4. BEGIN NOFORN: IMPERIAL STANDARD WAS HAULED DOWN AT "NATIONAL PALACE" AT UNUSUAL 1630 HOURS LOCAL SEPT. 10, WELL BEFORE SUNDOWN. NOTHING YET SAID PUBLICLY ABOUT EMPEROR'S STATUS AND WHEREABOUTS. WE CURRENTLY BELIEVE HAILE SELASSIE IS STILL IN ADDIS AND HEAR FROM WELL PLACED SOURCES BUT HAVE YET TO CONFIRM THAT HE COMPELLED SIGN INSTRUMENT OF ABDICATION YESTERDAY.
END NOFORN.

5. CITY IS STILL CALM; WORD OF "ARREST" MEMBERS OF IMPERIAL FAMILY IS SPREADING FAST.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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